

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/973,463
Atty. Docket No. **011350**

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 is pending in this application and claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **May 21, 2003.**

Claim Rejection - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabe in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

Okabe describes an electrical connector having a number of electrical wire housings (31). Each electrical wire housing (31) has a pair of umbrella-like resilient pieces (41) that hold a wire (3) in place.

The admitted prior art discloses in Figure 6 of the present application a straight rectangular projection (70) used to hold a wire in place.

The present invention is an electrical connector and terminal in which projections (5) are utilized to hold a wire (40) in a connector housing (1). The projections (5) are flexible and enable the insertion of the wire (40) with minimal force.

Okabe and the admitted prior art do not describe the umbrella-like resilient pieces (41) and projections (70) being straight square projections located at the top open end of the terminal housing and directly opposed to one another.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

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“An electrical connector comprising; a connector housing including a terminal receiving section, wherein the connector housing is provided on both side walls of a rear portion of the terminal receiving section with a pair of straight square projections located at a top open side of the connector housing, projecting inwardly directly opposite to each other from the terminal receiving section, for holding an electric wire; and a terminal having an electrical contact portion at one end thereof for connecting to a mating terminal and an electric wire joint portion at the other end for joining to an electric wire, wherein the terminal receiving section has an extra room for allowing said electrical contact portion to move, wherein the electrical contact portion and the electric wire joint portion are connected by means of a flexible connecting part.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabe in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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